(b) to (d) So far the Delimitation Commission has completed its exercise in respect of 25 States. These Orders have, however, not been given effect to, pending issue of Final Orders in respect of all the States/Union Territories. The new delimitation will take effect from the date to be specified by the President of India under the second proviso to article 82 and second proviso of clause (3) of article 170 of the Constitution.

Registration of marriages

1379. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court set a fresh three-month deadline in October, 2007, for the States and Union Territories, to frame necessary rules to make registration of marriages compulsory, irrespective of religion, and took exception to some States making registration of marriages compulsory only for Hindus;

(b) whether Government has urged the States to comply with the orders of the Supreme Court;

(c) how many States have introduced the legislation so far; and

(d) whether, in view of the Supreme Court's judgment, Government is considering to have a Central Law for compulsory registration of marriages?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) The Supreme Court *vide* its Order dated 25th October, 2007 has directed that the States and Union Territories who have not acted in line with the directions given on 14.02.2006 in the case of Smt. Seema *Vs* Ashwani Kumar AIR 2006 S.C. 1158 shall forthwith do it and in no case later than three months from 25.10.2007.

(b) The Government has sought the comments of the State Governments/Union Territories on the compliance of directions of the Supreme Court in the aforesaid case.

(c) The information is being collected from all States/Union Territories.

(d) The Government is carefully examining various aspects/implications of the Judgment in the said case. No decision has been taken so far to enact a Central Law in this behalf.

Registration of marriages in rural areas

1380. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that apex court has made it mandatory to register the marriages;

(b) if so, whether any mechanism is available in the country for registration of marriages solemnized in the rural areas;

(c) if not, whether it would be proper accord powers to postmasters who subsequently would forward the data to district courts for collecting and distributing registration certificates within a time bound period; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The information is being collected from all State Governments/Union Territories.

(d) The Government is carefully examining various aspects/implications of the judgment dated 14.02.2006 given by the Supreme Court in the case of Smt. Seema *Vs* Ashwani Kumar, AIR 2006 S.C. 1158.

Law colleges in Jharkhand

†1381. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of colleges in Jharkhand, imparting legal education;

(b) whether more law colleges are proposed to be opened or whether Government intend to do so; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) The Bar Council of India has informed that the total number of law colleges in the State of Jharkhand, having its approval of affiliation is 08.

(b) and (c) The Bar Council of India has not received any proposal from the State Government in this regard.

Scheduled caste judges

†1382. SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of male and female justices belonging to scheduled caste category in the Rajasthan High Court;

(b) whether there is a provision of reservation for the schedule castes in the high courts and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government proposes to provide reservation in the high courts and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) A statement is enclosed.

Statement

Appointments of Judges of High Courts are made under Article 217 of the Constitution of India which do not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons. No statistics are, therefor, available about the number of male and female judges belonging to scheduled caste category in the Rajasthan High Court. Any change in the present system would require Constitutional amendment.

After the Supreme Court Judgment of October 6, 1993 in the Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record & Anr. *Vs.* Union of India, read with the Advisory Opinion of October 28, 1998, the entire process of initiation of proposal for appointment of a Judge in a High Court lies

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi